# Annex 1 Overview of implementation at the action level

# Window 1: Rule of Law, Fundamental Rights and Democracy

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| **Annual Action Programme for the Republic of North Macedonia for the year 2016** | |
| **Action Document “Migration and asylum, border management and fight against terrorism and organized crime”** | |
| **State of play/ Progress for particular action (e.g. ToR in preparation, tender launched, contracted, under implementation, completed)** | |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | | **Outputs** | **Contract title** | **Status** | | **AD Output 1**  Strengthening of the national legislation, policies and practices for management of the borders and in fighting against human trafficking in line with the EU and international standards for human rights | Further up-grade of TETRA system (TETRA IV) AND Establishment of Emergency call  Reference No:  EuropeAid/139546/DH/SER/MK  Contract Number:  2018/400/891 | - The contract has been fully implemented.  - The Communication information system with a unique call-to-call number in the event of risks, dangers and other accidents in the territory of the Republic of North Macedonia (E-112) is fully functional.  - The System began operations on 11.02.2022, on the European Day of 112.  -The E-112 emergency call system has been fully implemented and is operational 24/7 - National center with the Regional offices.  - Signed agreement for annual maintains of E112 System No. 05-14/190 from 17.07.2023 | |
| **Main achievements and their assessment** | |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | | **Outputs** | **Contract title** | **Main achievements and assessment** | | **AD Output 1**  Strengthening of the national legislation, policies and practices for management of the borders and in fighting against human trafficking in line with the EU and international standards for human rights | Further up-grade of TETRA system (TETRA IV) and Establishment of Emergency Call E-112 – LOT2: Implementation of the E-112 emergency call system  Contract No IPA/2020/419-271  Identification number EuropeAid/140256/DH/SUP/MK | **Output 1**  Signing of “Final Acceptance”(24.02.2023)  Migration of 192 calls to 112 call takers (Kumanovo, Veles, Strumica, Shtip are already re-routed). As a result of this migration (better: re-routing of 192 calls), all 192 (police) calls will be answered by the 112 call takers.  Supply, manufacture, delivery, unloading, installation, migration integration, commissioning, testing, training and maintenance of equipment for TETRA network and E-112 emergency call system. | |  | **Output 2**  Functionality analysis  The System E 112 if fully operative with all function, available for citizens at the whole territory of the Republic of North Macedonia. Also, member of EENA (European  Emergency Number Association) with regularly coordination and communication. | |  | **Output 3** After final acceptance report on E 112; Version 1.0; 27.02.2023Service and Supply project aiming at the implementation of the 1st phase of 112 developments. | | Agreement for annual maintains of E112 System  No. 05-14/190 from 17.07.2023 | **Output 4**  Signing of “Maintains Agreement”  The “Maintain Agreement” was sigh with the ICS Consulting Engineering for annual maintains of all components in the E 112 System. | |
| **Significant problems encountered and the measures taken/planned to overcome them** | |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | | **Outputs** | **Contract title** | **Problem encountered and measures taken/planned** | | **AD Output 1**  Strengthening of the national legislation, policies and practices for management of the borders and in fighting against human trafficking in line with the EU and  international standards for human rights | Agreement for annual maintains of E112 System  No. 05-14/190 from 17.07.2023 | **Output 1**  Signing of “Maintains Agreement”  The planned signing of the “Maintains Agreement” was prolonged from February to July because of the administrative / technical reasons. | |
| **Developments and/or identified risks that influence future implementation and the achievement of the objectives** | N/A |
| **Recommendations for corrective further actions** | N/A |

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| **Annual Action Programme for the Republic of North Macedonia for the year 2020** | |
| **Action Document “EU Support for Rule of Law 2.0”** | |
| **State of play/ Progress for particular action (e.g. ToR in preparation, tender launched, contracted, under implementation, completed)** | |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | | **Outputs** | **Contract title** | **Status** | | Output 1  To improve the capacities of justice institutions to deliver justice in a transparent and accountable manner | Contract “EU Support for Rule of Law” | The implementation of the contract "EU Support for Rule of Law" is ongoing since 16.5.2023. with kick off meeting held on 22 September 2023  Component 1 of the contract, with a specific objective of improving the capacity of justice institutions to deliver justice in a transparent and accountable manner, consists of 6 results and 21 activities. Out of these activities, 13 are in the process of being implemented, and 3 activities should begin in 2024. | | Output 2  Stronger capacity to effectively implement modern investigation techniques to fight and prosecute organised crime, terrorism, money laundering and corruption | Component 2 continued with implementation of activities with kick-off meeting held on 21st of September 2023  The new period of implementation is 36 months + 6 months.  The value of the contract is 10.250.000,00 EUR  Component 2 consists of 4 results and 14 activities. Out of these activities, 10 are in the process of being implemented, and 4 activities should begin in 2024. | | Output 3  To improve the prevention and fight against corruption | Component 3 of the contract, with a specific objective of improving the prevention and fight against corruption, consists of 5 results and 14 activities. Out of these activities, 8 are in the process of being implemented, and 6 activities should begin in 2024. | | Output 4  Enhance the protection of fundamental rights and strengthen the uptake of alternative means to detention | Component 3 of the contract, with a specific objective of enhancing the protection of fundamental rights and strengthening the uptake of alternative means to detention, consists of 8 results and 23 activities. Out of these activities, 16 are in the process of being implemented, and 7 activities should begin in 2024 and 2025. | |
| **Main achievements and their assessment** | |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | | **Outputs** | **Contract title** | **Main achievements and assessment** | | Output 1  To improve the capacities of justice institutions to deliver justice in a transparent and accountable manner | Contract “EU Support for Rule of Law” | **Component 1**  **Specific Objective 1: To improve the capacities of justice institutions to deliver justice in transparent and accountable manner**  **Result 1.1 Capacities of the Judicial Council and courts strengthened**  Activity 1.1.1 Reviewing and supporting the improvement of the rules and practice of performance evaluation   * Day-to-day support to the Council provided. * Three-day workshop with JC members and staff on the topic regarding implementation of the Recommendations of the Peer Review Mission scheduled for 22-24 January 2024; * Active attendance in the Working Group on amendments to the Law on the Judicial Council.   Activity 1.1.2 Strengthening the Judicial Council’s capacities with regard to disciplinary proceedings   * Day-to-day support to the Council provided. * Three-day workshop with JC members and staff regarding implementation of the Recommendations of the Peer Review Mission scheduled for 22-24 January 2024; * Active attendance in the Working Group on amendments to the Law on the Judicial Council.   Activity 1.1.3 Strengthening the transparency and accountability of the Judicial Council and courts   * Day-to-day support to the Council provided. * Three-day workshop with JC members and staff regarding implementation of the Recommendations of the Peer Review Mission scheduled for 22-24 January 2024; * Active attendance in the Working Group on amendments to the Law on the Judicial Council.   Activity 1.1.4 Strengthening the communication of the Judicial Council and courts with the media   * First Draft of the Judicial Communication Strategy prepared in English. Internal review in progress.   Activity 1.1.5 Reviewing and supporting the implementation of the Human Resource Strategy   * To be implemented starting from September 2024   Activity 1.1.6 Supporting the Judicial Council and the Courts in fulfilling its statutory role in line with European standards   * Daily in-house expertise is being provided to the JC on day-to-day basis; * Developmental Sectorial Strategy for the Justice System 2023-2027, Part for the Judiciary and the Council, conclusions delivered. * 13 reports from JC sessions prepared following the monitoring of its sessions.   **Result 1.2 Capacities of the Council of Public Prosecutors and the Public Prosecution Office strengthened**  Activity 1.2.1 Reviewing and supporting the improvement of the rules and practice of performance evaluation and supervision of the lawful and timely execution of the public prosecutorial function   * Report on existing legal framework regarding the supervision of the lawful and timely execution of the public prosecutorial function drafted.   Activity 1.2.2 Strengthening the Public Prosecution Office and the Council of Public Prosecutors’ capacities with regard to disciplinary proceedings   * Report on existing legal framework for disciplinary proceedings in RNM completed; * Drafting review of disciplinary system in light of European standards and good practices initiated.   Activity 1.2.3 Strengthening the transparency and accountability of the Council of Public Prosecutors   * Commentary on the draft guidelines to the code of conduct for prosecutors delivered (in respect of freedom of expression and association); * Ongoing: drafting commentary on guidelines in respect of use of social media.   Activity 1.2.4 Strengthening the communication of the Council of Public Prosecutors and the Public Prosecution Office with the media   * Report on current regulation and practice in communication with the media drafted.   Activity 1.2.5 Supporting the Public Prosecution Office and the Council of Public Prosecutors in adjusting the activities to the European standards   * Developmental Sectorial Strategy for the Justice System 2023-2027, Part for the Public Prosecution Office and the Council of Public Prosecutors, conclusions delivered.   **Result 1.3 Capacities of the ICT Council for the Judiciary for the implementation of the ICT Strategy strengthened**  Activity 1.3.1 Providing assistance to the set-up of the project for development of case management system for courts   * Trainings on Cyber Security for IT Specialists in Supreme Court, Appeal and Basic Court in Skopje provided.   Activity 1.3.2 Providing assistance to the set-up and implementation of the project for development of case management system for prosecution offices   * Draft IT assessment of PPO; * Drafting of technical specification for new case management system for prosecution offices (ongoing); * Assistance in implementation of upgrades to LURIS case management system for MLA; * Recommendations for preparation of IT infrastructure in the new premises of OC Prosecution Office to the new premises; * Trainings on Cyber Security for IT Specialists in PPO, Higher and Basic PO.   Activity 1.3.3 Supporting the ICT Council for the Judiciary   * Recommendations on the IT-related actions for Justice Sector Development Strategy 2023-2027; * Assessment of the state of implementation of the Action Plan of ICT Strategy 2019-2024.   **Result 1.4 Capacities of the Academy for Judges and Public Prosecutors strengthened**  Activity 1.4.1. Strengthening the initial training programme of judges and prosecutors   * This activity will be initiated with the help of a Short Term Expert after April 2024.   Activity 1.4.2. Strengthening the continuous training programme of judges and prosecutors   * The training for trainers on IT-related issues initiated, delivered and continued.   Activity 1.4.3. Strengthening the institutional development of the Academy for Judges and Public Prosecutors   * Report on the capacity building needs of the Academy for Judges and Prosecutors drafted.   **Result 1.5 Capacities of the Ministry of Justice and Council for Monitoring the** **Implementation of Judicial Reform in the implementation and monitoring of the judicial reform process strengthened**  Activity 1.5.1. Supporting the Ministry of Justice in an effective implementation of the Justice Reform Strategy   * The EU Support to Rule of Law 2.0 project supported the Ministry of Justice in successfully finalizing the Developmental Strategy for Judiciary 2024 – 2028 that was adopted by the Government in December 2023.   Activity 1.5.2 Supporting the Council for Monitoring the Implementation of Judicial Reform in its monitoring task   * Not applicable. The Council did not have activities during the 2nd half of 2024 due to the fact that drafting the Strategy was delegated to the Working group.   Activity 1.5.3. Ensuring an inclusive and participatory process of monitoring the judicial reform process   * Facilitating two meetings of the working group for drafting the Strategy in order to ensure inclusive and participatory process.   **Result 1.6 Institutional framework of the Bar Association strengthened**  Activity 1.6.1 Supporting the institutional framework and functioning of the Bar Association   * The representative of the Bar Association included in the meetings and works on the draft Judicial Strategy 2023-2027. | | Output 2  Stronger capacity to effectively implement modern investigation techniques to fight and prosecute organised crime, terrorism, money laundering and corruption |  | Considering the project's recent start and the minor progress made so far, it can be said that the project is gradually moving towards its objectives despite the initial challenges.  **Component 2**  **Specific Objective 2: To strengthen the capacities to effectively implement modern investigation techniques in fighting organised crime**  **Result 2.1. Improved investigation capacities with the emphasis on complex criminal and financial investigations**  Activity 2.1.1 Capacity building with specialised training activities   * Support to the law enforcement institutions in the form of tailor-made trainings and specialised operational workshops with complex real-case scenarios. * Completed: * -24.10.23 Training for SKY communication for the Antidrug unit in the DFSOSC (MoI) * -25.10.23 Training for SKY communication for the Antidrug unit in the CPD (MoI) * -26.10.23 Training for SKY communication for the Public Prosecutor’s Office, in collaboration with C1 * -21-23.11.23 Prepared Draft Training Program for Customs Administration and Financial Police regarding: * Search of a person – sensitive/dangerous procedure,   + House search – preparation and performance, sensitive/dangerous procedure,   + Entering the apartment - sensitive/dangerous procedure,   + Inspection of means of transport, passengers and luggage,   + Stopping the vehicle - sensitive/dangerous procedure,   + Procedure with dangerous persons, * shooting training for investigators with various exercises and safe handling of weapons, * other procedures with dangerous persons.   Activity 2.1.2 Improvement in the prevention and detection of money laundering Activity not started.   * Planned start: March 2024   Activity 2.1.3 Improved capacities for combatting drugs and precursors with special a focus on darknet-related investigations   * Activity not started. * Planned start: April 2024   Activity 2.1.4 Financial investigations as one of the main tools in organised crime investigations - Workshops and trainings   * Activity not started. * Planned start: February 2024   Activity 2.1.5 National Strategy and Action Plan for Organised Crime in North Macedonia   * STEs mission 09-11 Jan 2024 Discussion with high level MoI management regarding the expectations for the strategy and important elements to be included completed (Meetings with Director of the Public Security Bureau, Ass.Director and Head of CPD, Ass.Director and Head of Criminal Intelligence and Analysis Department and Head of DFSOSC in MoI)   Activity 2.1.6 Enhanced cooperation in the field of combating migrant smuggling   * STEs mission 9-10 Oct. 2023, action plan drafted and priority defined: * implementation of proactive activities aimed at identifying the operations of organized criminal groups, including international ones. * Establishment of a central database and central information hub for migration-related issues, the so-called "SharePoint," with the aim of efficiently connecting the cases and individuals under investigation. * Trainings related to evaluation of data from seized electronic devices * Training related to recognizing all forms of recruitment and exploitation of human trafficking victims using the internet (ONLINE THB).   Activity 2.1.7 Strengthening the investigative capacities for fight against terrorism   * Meetings with the Italian Police attaché, Massimo Pani, regarding the recommendations from the completed EU IPA Twinning project “Strengthening the prevention/counter violent extremism and counterterrorism coordination capacities “, as Mr. Panni was the RTA of the project. * First STE mission scheduled for mid-February 2024   Activity 2.1.8 Support to Anti-Corruption investigations and prevention measures  The current state of the fight against corruption at the national level was successfully familiarized with:   * Meetings with crucial individuals and institutions responsible for anti-corruption efforts were conducted. * A comprehensive list of demands for the police of North Macedonia was developed. * Key national personalities were effectively introduced to the Slovenian approach to combating corruption. * Specific training needs of participants about EU legislation on corruption were identified. * The training requirements for SCPC employees were determined, and potential avenues for cooperation with the Slovenian police and the Slovenian KPK were presented. * Future steps for cooperating with the State Commission for the prevention of corruption have been discussed and agreed. * A communication plan for anti-corruption has been prepared. * The status of the fight against corruption at the regional level SVR has been identified, and visits to SVRs have been started. * A legal gap for effective investigation of corruption in sports was detected. * A Visibility Plan and draft leaflet for Corruption have been developed. * Crucial information from investigators regarding issues related to the investigation of corruption has been received. * Conducted a lesson at the Iustinianus Primus Law Faculty, Ss. Cyril and Methodius University in Skopje for master's students in Law Faculty, during which the concept of zero tolerance for corruption was presented. * In collaboration with the SI ambassador and his advisor, the necessity to involve companies from Slovenia and North Macedonia in a workshop, with a particular focus on foreign bribery, was identified. * A legal gap hindering the effective investigation of corruption was identified. * Foundational materials for the rulebook on media communication about corruption were created.   Activity 2.1.9 Support to the first National Cybercrime Strategy and Action Plan   * Two International STEs selected in June 2023 confirmed their availability. * In July 2023 Notes and draft reports from the previous RoL project regarding the Cybercrime strategy shared with the Head of Computer Crime in order to study them and jointly define the further steps and with all the other relevant institutions. * First mission planned for end of February 2024   **Result 2.2. Strengthening intelligence-led police operations and improving the use of analytical tools in the detection of more serious forms of organised crime**  Activity 2.2.1 Support to the analytical enhancement of MoI and the prepared action plan including trainings for analytics and covert human intelligence.  Analytics:   * 25-28 Sep 2023 provided 4 days of advanced training in the field of Criminal Intelligence – Criminal Analysis for 13 participants (from the Unit for Criminal Intelligence and Analysis and from the Border Police) from 25 to 28 September in the premises of Sector for Internal Affairs (SVR) Skopje. * Covert human Intelligence: * 18-19 Sep 2023 action plan, including trainings, prepared * 13-16 Nov 2023 training provided for 14 police officers from several Regional MoI Sectors in North Macedonia in the field of Criminal Intelligence, presenting the system “Train the Trainers” with sets; collection (OSINT, CHIS, other), analysis and dissemination of information.   **Result 2.3 Improved use of special investigative measures in criminal investigations in compliance with fundamental rights and freedoms.**  Activity 2.3.1 Analysis and survey of strengths and weaknesses in the field of special investigative measures   * 02-06 Oct. 2023 Analysis of the current situation of Special Investigative Measures (SIM) implementation from a practical, legislative, and operational perspective, completed. * 20 Nov. 2023 Workshop for SIMs for MoI DFSOSC and CPD * 21 Nov 2023 Round Table for the use of SIMs for Public Prosecutor’s Office and Investigative Centres in collaboration with C1 * 22 -24 Nov 23 Working group for SoPs for the Units of the Undercover operations sector (first session, second session planned for end of Jan. 2024   Activity 2.3.2 Use of special investigative measures   * 07-09 Nov. 2023, 3 police officers from the Section for support and documentation, Sector for Undercover Operations (DFSOSC), participated in a study visit to the Slovenian MoI. The primary objective of the 2-day study visit was to enhance the knowledge and understanding of the implementation of the special investigative measures among specialised technical law enforcement personnel. The participants underlined, in the report prepared after the visit, that this experience was very important for them as they had the possibility to discuss, learn and exchange ideas directly with the Slovenian colleagues who are specialised technical personnel for the implementation of the Special Investigative Measures (SIMs) within the Slovenian Ministry of Interior. During the 2 days stay the following issues were covered:   1. GPS devices;  2. Video and audio technical equipment;  3. Drons;  4. Locksmithing;  5. Case study – handling of video and audio files  6. Case study – presentation of workspace for testing different types of equipment  7. Presentation of mobile communication system using a special security application  8. Exchange of ideas and information   * The follow-up of the study visit will be specialised training activities for the Unit for support and documentation in form of on-the-job training, to be organised starting from spring 2024 in North Macedonia.   **Result 2.4 Support for the development of the National Coordination Centre for suppression of organised and serious crime (NCC)**  Activity 2.4.1 Analysis and development of a new model for NCC   * 15-16 Nov. 2023 comprehensive analysis of the current status of the National Coordination Centre for suppression of organised and serious crime (NCC) completed. * Next mission scheduled for end of March 2024   Activity 2.4.2 Trainings for NCC personnel   * Not started * The beginning of this activity is connected to the outcome of the act.2.4.1   **Result 2.5 Improved administrative and technical capacities for assets recovery and freezing and seizure management under EU standards.**  Activity 2.5.1 Identification of potential gaps in the ICT systems of AMCP and ARO Not started   * Planned start mid-March 2024   Activity 2.5.2 Review of the legal framework in asset management   * In September 2023 the National legal expert was selected and started the review of the legal framework of the AMCP. * End of November 2023, the expert delivered 6 sub-legal instruments essential for the work of AMCP. * The future engagement of the expert will be upon request of the AMCP. | | Output 3  To improve the prevention and fight against corruption |  | **Component 3**  **Specific Objective 3: To Improve the prevention and fight against corruption**  **Result 3.1 Strategic support for ensuring the independence, effectiveness, and efficiency in the operations of SCPC as well as methodological support for implementation of its mandate provided**  Activity 3.1.1 Support on strategic management and methodology development of SCPC   * A methodology on the assessment of the impact on personal data protection and a linked Incident Response Plan were drafted for further development by SCPC. * Assessing and improving access management related to software solutions was completed in 2023. * An Access Management Policy defining processes such as granting/removing access rights, periodical review of access levels, monitoring, reporting, and role-bases access control is under development and will be finalised in January 2024. * The development of a Human Resource Management System is underway and is planned to be piloted and tested in March 2024. * The first ever staff survey was developed and conducted in SCPC in 2023. * Basic communication trainings and lecture on story telling was delivered in 2023.   Activity 3.1.2 High level academic programmes and courses delivered by the International Anti-Corruption Academy (IACA) in Combating Corruption & Building Integrity   * A contract with IACA was signed in December 2023. Preparations for the first course will start in February 2024 with the plan to run the course in March-April 2024.   Activity 3.1.3 National collaboration and international cooperation   * Joint trainings with SCPC and independent institutions that are beneficiaries in Component 4 have been conducted and will be continued throughout 2024. * A training programme on investigation techniques for SCPC and investigators that are from Component 2 beneficiaries have been developed and agreed. The first training is on interview techniques and will take place in January 2024.   Activity 3.1.4 Support to the Training Centre in SCPC   * The Training Centre has been equipped to be better suited for training purposes during the last quarter of 2023.   **Result 3.2 Improved control and verification of assets declarations submitted by elected and appointed public officials and members of Parliament**  Activity 3.2.1 Improving the current system of control and verification of assets declarations   * A plan for this activity has been developed and agreed with SCPC. The first phase, a desk study of the current regulations and guiding documents will be completed in January 2024. The following phase has a focus on the job training.   Activity 3.2.2 Exchange of information and data flow   * A report on the current situation and future priorities on interoperability when it comes to registers and databases listed in the Law on prevention of corruption and conflict of interest will be completed in January 2024.   **Result 3.3 Enforcement and awareness raising of the law on lobbying improved**  Activity 3.3.1 Assessing implementation of and raise awareness on the new Law on Lobbying   * This activity is planned to start in the second quarter of 2024 with activities targeting the private sector with awareness raising activities.   **Result 3.4 Enforcement and awareness raising of the law on lobbying improved**  Activity 3.4.1 Legal amendments to allow for ICT solutions   * This activity is estimated to start in the end of 2024 after the new government is in place.   Activity 3.4.2 ICT support for submissions and transparency   * This activity will start after activity 3.4.1 has been completed.   **Result 3.5 Prevention of corruption in public procurement improved**  Activity 3.5.1 Assessment of existing e-procurement system, processes, and control measures etc.   * The assessment has been completed and the report has been circulated in SCPC. The report was adopted by the SCPC Collegium in December 2023. The report will be presented and discussed with key stakeholders in January-February 2024 and recommendations will be further developed. The activity is foreseen to be completed by March 2024.   Activity 3.5.2 Workshops and seminars to understand and in depth explore the system of e-Supervisor (upgraded version renamed Erar) in Slovenia and the consequences an implementation of a similar system would have in North Macedonia and in SCPC   * Necessary legal amendments of the law on prevention of corruption and conflict have been drafted. * Several demonstrations of the Erar system for various target groups will take place in January 2024. These demonstrations will conclude this activity.   Activity 3.5.3 Developing terms of reference for an e-tracker system similar to Slovenian e-Supervisor and assist with preparations for procurement and/or funding requests for the system   * This activity will start after activity 3.5.2 has been completed.   Activity 3.5.4 Strengthening the capacities of the relevant institutions   * This activity will start after activity 3.5.1 has been completed.   Activity 3.5.5 Awareness raising among external stakeholders   * This activity will start after activity 3.5.1 has been completed. | | Output 4  Enhance the protection of fundamental rights and strengthen the uptake of alternative means to detention |  | **Component 4**  **Specific Objective 4: To enhance the protection of fundamental rights and strengthen the uptake of alternative means to detention**  **Result 4.1. Capacities of the main HR bodies to effectively implement their mandates strengthened**  Activity 4.1.1 Advice and on-the-job training for Ombudsman Office (OO) and Commission for Prevention and Protection against Discrimination (CPPD)   * OO: Advice and on-the job training for staff of the OO is continuously happening on a request and reply basis, especially on challenging cases; two-day training on the reporting on the implementation of the Convention on trafficking in human beings targeting the OO and other relevant stakeholders (15 participants on day 1, 14 participants on day 2) conducted; 11 questionnaires targeting relevant stakeholders collecting data on THB drafted, input to 3 already existing questionnaires given. * CPPD: Conceptualising and conducting of public consultations for a thematic report on discrimination in employment, with a particular focus on Roma women, supported, consultation was closed; the methodology prepared; further steps for preparation of the report agreed on.   Activity 4.1.2 Recommen-dations on legal and structural adaptations to the HR protection system   * Preparations for the first annual report on recommendations on amendments to the human rights protection system were stated, the report will be drafted by April 2024.   Activity 4.1.3 Establishing a forum for professional exchange among the main HR bodies   * Preparations for the first human rights forum targeting beneficiaries started, it will take place on 26.03.2024 with the aim of collecting data for the first annual report (see A 4.1.2). * First inter-institutional expert WG targeting OO, MLSP, MoI & other relevant stakeholders collecting data on THB on (18 participants) implemented on 12.09.2023.   Activity 4.1.4 Joint study visits to EU Member States   * Preparations for the first study visit will start in April 2024.   **Result 4.2 Capacities of the key HR oversight institutions strengthened**  Activity 4.2.1 Capacity building for key HR institutions   * OO: an ISTE was identified to support the OO in introducing the Common Assessment Framework and develop a quality management system with the aim of improving the services for the citizens; the activity will be implemented by September 2024; a WS on efficient handling of complaints is planned for the first half of 2024 * CPPD: First thematic training on instruction to discrimination held 14.-15.12.2023; ISTEs for thematic trainings in 2024 identified – AI & ADM and SOGI. * MLSP: ISTE for workshops on data collection for preventing and combating gender-based violence, 2 workshops will take place in 2024.   Activity 4.2.2 Training of Trainers from key HR institutions on anti-discrimination and human rights   * Module 1 of the ToT on the Art of Training and Participatory Facilitation for the Prevention of Discrimination and Promotion of Equality conducted with 17 participants (18.-20.10.2023), modules 2 to 4 will be implemented by September 2024.   **Result 4.3 Capacities for applying the HRBA within administration assessed and strengthened**  Activity 4.3.1 Increasing HR knowledge within public administration – e-learning   * Will start in January 2024.   Activity 4.3.2 Assessment of capacities for including the HRBA in policy-making and budgeting   * Will start in January 2024.   Activity 4.3.3 Assessment of capacities for addressing recommendations by oversight HR bodies   * OO: Activity was started in September by conducting a Round Table (RT) in Shtip on 13.09.2023 (26 registered participants) and a RT in Strumica on 04.10.2023 (34 registered participants) with the aim of enhancing the implementation of the Ombudsman’s recommendations at the local level; the events were reviewed and a need for revision of the concept and its implementation are under way so that RTs planned for 2024 will yield better results.   Activity 4.3.4 Awareness raising and advocacy for applying the HRBA in policy-making and budgeting   * Will start during second half of 2024.   **Result 4.4 Prevention of gender-based violence and gender-based discrimination enhanced**  Activity 4.4.1 Research analysis on prevention of gender-based violence   * Research methodology developed, and questionnaires for non-state actors drafted, disseminated and collected during previous project; plan for data collection regarding state actors amended in line with meeting with MLSP in October 2023. Research will be finalized by end of June 2024.   Activity 4.4.2 Research analysis on under-reporting of gender-based discrimen-ation   * Research methodology developed, interviews and other data collection completed during previous project. Research will be finalized by end of July 2024.   Activity 4.4.3 Support to the implementation of the National Action Plan for the Protection, Promotion, and Fulfilment of Human Rights of Roma Women and Girls 2022-2024   * Data collection for thematic report on discrimination in employment (incl. recommendations), with a particular focus on Roma women, finalised. Research will be finalized by end of July 2024. * Methodology for developing joint report (CPPD and OO) on access to justice in cases of multiple and intersectional discrimination of Roma women and girls agreed on, data collection is under progress. Research will be finalized by end August 2024. * Thematic report focussed on Roma women and girls in health drafted (incl. recommendations). Research will start in July 2024.   **Result 4.5. Child rights policy and child protection system strengthened**  Activity 4.5.1 Research analysis on the child protection system at national level   * This activity will start in 2024. * Research #1: Rights of children using drugs (2024); Research #2: Protection of children from violence (2025); Research #3: Education of the children in correctional facilities (2026).   Activity 4.5.2 Support to monitoring the implement-tation of child rights   * Preparatory work started in Q 3/2023. A list of current bodies monitoring children's rights in different areas was prepared. During the kick-off meeting of the WG on the National Acton Plan (NAP) for Child Rights (15.09.2023) ways of monitoring the implementation of child rights was systematically explored. Recommendations for the establishment of an instrument / national body for monitoring the implementation of the NAP for Child Rights drafted.   Activity 4.5.3 Supporting the preparation and implement-tation of a National Action Plan for Child Rights   * The drafting of the NAP for Child Rights is underway, the following steps for achieving this goal were taken: * Workshop with field workers 11.09.2023 (18 participants); * Kick-off NAP-WG meeting, 14.-15.09.2023 (16 participants); * 2nd NAP-WG meeting, 10.10.2023 (22 participants); * Children's Panel, 16.11.2023 (14 children participated); * 3rd NAP-WG meeting, 28.11.2023 (17 participants); * 4th NAP-WG meeting, 19.12.2023 (21 participants) * Currently representatives of the MLSP, MoF, MoJ, MoH, MoE, ISA, NGOs, UNICEF, General Secretariat of the Government, National Coordinating Body for the Implementation of the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities in the Republic of North Macedonia, State Statistical Office, as well as university professors are members of the NAP WG. * The 5th and last NAP-WG meeting will take place on 27.02.2024.   Activity 4.5.4 Awareness-raising on the promotion of child rights   * 15 creative visuals featuring statements by children of diverse backgrounds to mark the 30th anniversary of the ratification of the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC) in the country as well as World Children Day were developed. On 20.11.2023 the visuals were published on the Ombudsman's website and disseminated via the OO’s social media channels, they were also presented during an event on “Children’s Rights in our schools” organised by the Foundation for Educational and Cultural Initiatives "Step by Step" and the OO on 20.11.2023. The visuals were also promoted over the EU Support for Rule of Law social media channels. * In 2024 the first awareness raising activity will focus on children in the streets.   **Result 4.6 Awareness on the importance and role of institutions and various HR bodies to protect HR raised**  Activity 4.6.1 Development and implementation of annual awareness-raising plans with HR bodies   * This activity entails the development of awareness raising plans and the implementation of selected activities. * OO: Implementation of selected activities on 12.12.2023: A Round Table on the role and position of the Ombuds Institution in the EU accession process, and the institutional benefits from EU membership (10 participants) and a reception marking the 25th anniversary of the OO (75 participants). * The development of awareness raising plans together with the OO and CPPD is under way.   **Result 4.7 Respect for HR in the judicial and home affairs system improved**  Activity 4.7.1 Capacity-building on HR and anti-discrimination   * Will start during the second half of 2024.   Activity 4.7.2 Capacity-building on prevention of and response to domestic violence   * Will start in 2025.   **Result 4.8 Probation system and application of alternative sanctions improved**  Activity 4.8.1 Gaps and needs analysis on the probation system and alternative sanctions   * An elaborate and still valid gap and needs analysis on the probation system and alternative sanctions was conducted during the previous, project activities implemented under A 4.8.2 and 4.8.3 are based on the analysis. Should the need for further analysis arise, it can be implemented.   Activity 4.8.2 Awareness-raising on alternative sanctions   * Training for the 13 members of the PR WG of the probation offices conducted on 11.-12.09.2023: * Communications and Visibility Strategy for the Probation Service developed; * Brochure “Probation – Powerful tool in the criminal-legal system” developed and disseminated at 4 Round Tables (RT); * RT on "Enhancing the up-take of alternative measures" in Skopje (57 participants); * RT on "Enhancing the up-take of alternative measures" in Shtip (41 participants); * RT on "Enhancing the up-take of alternative measures" in Gostivar (51 participants); * RT on "Enhancing the up-take of alternative measures" in Bitola (48 participants). * The RTs targeted criminal judges, public prosecutors, prison directors and staff and probation officers.   Activity 4.8.3 Capacity-building for judges, prosecutors, and probation officers   * The curriculum for the in-house basic training was finalised during the previous project. The trainings conducted are based on this curriculum, which is still valid. * A special training on working with violent offenders targeting 27 probation officers was implemented on 26.-27.10.2023. * A training of trainers targeting probation officers will be implemented during the first half of 2024. * Further special trainings targeting probation officers are planned for 2024 and 2025:   + working with drug, alcohol and gambling addicts   + working with psychologically challenged offenders   + working with high-risk offenders   + working with unmotivated clients | |
| **Significant problems encountered and the measures taken/planned to overcome them** | |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | | **Outputs** | **Contract title** | **Problem encountered and measures taken/planned** | | Stronger capacity to effectively implement modern investigation techniques to  fight and prosecute organised crime, terrorism, money laundering and corruption; | EU,,EU support for Rule of Law” | The whole project was under suspension.  The European Commission withdrew AEI from the list of Twinning Mandated Bodies on 3 August 2022. The removal of the twinning mandate directly affects the eligibility of AEI under the project EU Support for Rule of Law.  The AEI board of members received the attached letter dated 15 August 2022 concerning the suspension of the implementation of Grant Contract nr. IPA/2020/419-800 - "EU Support for Rule of Law" – Ares (2022)5747006.  This suspension, which has the purpose of assessing the situation of AEI as regards the continued compliance with the eligibility criteria that applied to the award of the grant contract, took effect on the date of reception, and applies for an initial indicative period lasting until 31 October 2022.  The project continued with implementation of activities in September 2023. | |
| **Developments and/or identified risks that influence future implementation and the achievement of the objectives** |  |
| **Recommendations for corrective further actions** |  |

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| **IPA III Annual Action Plan for the Republic of North Macedonia for the year 2021** | |
| **Action Document “EU for Rule of Law and Anti-corruption”** | |
| **State of play/ Progress for particular action (e.g. ToR in preparation, tender launched, contracted, under implementation, completed)** | |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | | **Outputs** | **Contract title** | **Status** | | Output 1  Enhanced digitalization of state institutions in the judiciary and anti-corruption areas | Service contract Modernization and integration of the ICT operational management and infrastructure across the justice sector. | Service contract – Modernisation of the ICT operational management and infrastructure across the justice sector – Draft ToR is being currently reviewed by the ICT expert of the Rule of Law project (IPA 2020). | | Output 2  Strengthened capacities of the Constitutional Court to control the constitutionality and legality of adopted normative acts | Service contract – Strengthening the capacity and efficiency of the Constitutional Court | The contract commenced on 18/09/2023 and the period of implementation of the contract will be 731 Day(s) from this date (indicative end date: 18/09/2025). | | Output 3  Technical documentation for the new premises of the Academy for Judges and Public Prosecutors | The framework contract ‘Preparation of technical documentation of the premises of the Academy for Judges and Public Prosecutors (phase I) | The Ministry of Justice and the Academy of Judges and Public Prosecutors will prepare information for the Government with a proposed location to prepare a technical specification of the premises of the Academy for Judges and Public Prosecutors. | | Output 4  Raised public intolerance to corruption |  | Not started | |
| **Main achievements and their assessment** | |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | | **IPA III Action Document 2021 “EU for Rule of Law and Anti-corruption”Outputs** | **Contract title** | **Main achievements and assessment** | | Output 1  Enhanced digitalization of state institutions in the judiciary and anti-corruption areas | Service contract Modernization and integration of the ICT operational management and infrastructure across the justice sector. | / | | Output 2  Strengthened capacities of the Constitutional Court to control the constitutionality and legality of adopted normative acts | Service contract – Strengthening the capacity and efficiency of the Constitutional Court | **“Strengthening the capacity and efficiency of the Constitutional Court”**  **Component 1: The professional and administrative capacities, administrative autonomy, independence and efficiency of the Constitutional Court is strengthened**  **RESULT 1 - Improved legislative, normative and jurisdictional competencies of the Constitutional Court and Protection of Fundamental Rights**  Activity 1.1 – Preparation of analysis of the needs for the adoption of a law on the constitutional court and drafting the text of law.   * Activity started on November 2023. The Team of experts has participated on meetings with the Final Beneficiary-The Constitutional Court and other stakeholders with a view to analyzing needs for a dedicated CC statutory basis and full-fledged Constitutional Complaint. Draft report in development.   Activity 1.2. - Preparation of Assessment of the overall current legal framework for protection of freedoms and rights in the country   * Activity started on November 2023. The Team of experts has participated on meetings with the Final Beneficiary-The Constitutional Court and other stakeholders with a view to analyzing needs for a dedicated CC statutory basis and full-fledged Constitutional Complaint. Draft report in development.   Activity 1.3. - Analysis of the needs and drafting amendments to the Rules of Procedure in the part on the procedure for protection of freedoms and rights   * Activity planned to start in Q1 of 2024.   Activity 1.4. - Analysis of the needs and drafting of amendments of or new internal acts and procedures for acting upon requests for protection of freedoms and rights before the Constitutional Court   * Activity planned to start in Q1 of 2024.   Activity 1.5. - Preparation of a Manual for protection of freedoms and rights before the Constitutional Court   * Activity planned to start in Q1 of 2024.   Activity 1.6. - Preparation on comparative analysis of individual protection for human freedoms and rights   * Activity planned to start in Q1 of 2024.   Activity 1.7. - Analysis of the Procedure and Process of the Constitutional Court   * Activity started in December 2023. The Team of experts held meetings with CC staff and started analyzing CC Procedures and Business Processes. A draft report in development.   **Component 2: The individual protection of the freedoms and rights of the individuals and the citizens in front the Constitutional Court is improved**  **Result 2 - Strengthened Managerial, Administrative and HR Capacities of the Constitutional Court and Increased Transparency**  Activity 2.1. - Develop a sustainable human resources strategic planning, based on an analysis of needs and workload for the CC   * Activity is planned to start in Q2 of 2024.   Activity 2.2. - Develop an analysis of the budgetary independence of the CC   * Activity is planned to start in Q2 of 2024.   Activity 2.3. - Strengthening the strategic and budgetary planning of the CC   * Activity started in November 2023. Coordination has been established with MOJ and other stakeholders with regard to the dedicated CC Chapter of the new Justice Reform Strategy.   Activity 2.4. – Assessment and preparation of recommendations for improvement of the archival work of the CC and IT system for internal processes   * Activity is planned to start in Q2 of 2024.   Activity 2. 5. - Develop template for preparation on CC annual reports   * Activity is planned to start in Q3 of 2024.   Activity 2.6. - Organisation of trainings and roundtables on strategic planning, research, analysis and monitoring for the staff   * Activity is planned to start in Q3 of 2024.   Activity 2.7. - Organisation of 2 Study visits in Member States country for developing comparative analyses and exchange of knowledge and experience   * One study visit is planned to be organized in Q4 of 2024. The second Study Visit is planned for Q3 of 2025.   Activity 2.8. - Development of curricula and programmes and conducting trainings for public relations   * Activity started in December 2023. The communication Strategy of CC is under preparation. Development of communication training curricula for CC Judges and staff.   Activity 2.9. - Strengthening the transparency of the Constitutional Court with reasoned and more detailed decisions publicly available   * Activity started in December 2023. Meetings with the Public relations an Communication Advisor of CC were held.   Activity 2.10. - Public awareness activities for informing the public about the procedure for protection of the freedoms and rights of the citizens before the Constitutional Court   * Activity is planned to start in the Q4 of 2024.   Activity 2.11. - Assessment of the web site of the CC and recommendation for upgrade/ improvements   * Activity is planned to start in the Q4 of 2024.   **Component 3: Improved protection of the freedoms and rights of the individuals and the citizens in front of the Constitutional Court (CC)**  **Result 3 - Improved Performance Management of the Constitutional Court and Quality of Constitutional Justice**  Activity 3.1. - Assessment of the Case Management System, electronic filing and of the possibility for interoperability with other institutions   * Activity started in November 2023. Initial analysis is submitted to EUD, draft report is in development.   Activity 3.2. - Drafting of internal acts for improvement on the performance management in the court   * Activity is planned to start in Q4 of 2024.   Activity 3.3. - Preparation of templates and guidelines for reasoning of the decisions of the CC   * Activity is planned to start in Q4 of 2024.   Activity 3.4. - Preparation of training curricula for reasoning of the decisions   * Activity is planned to start in Q2 of 2024.   Activity 3.5. - Three workshops delivered for reasoning of the decisions of the CC   * Activity is planned to start in Q3 of 2024.   Activity 3.6. - Preparation of a publication containing a collection of the selected decisions of the CC   * Activity is planned to start in Q3 of 2025.   Activity 3.7. - Trainings for application of the legal standards developed by the ECtHR for protection of freedoms and rights of the citizens before the Constitutional Court   * Activity is planned to start in Q3 of 2025.   Activity 3.8. - Training needs assessment, training curricula, programmes prepared and trainings delivered for protection of freedoms and rights of the citizens in front of the Constitutional court   * Activity started in November 2023. Meetings have been held with CC staff and the Director of the Academy for Public Prosecutors and Judges for the creation of a dedicated training system for staff and CC judges with tailor-made training. Overview of accessibility and search of ECHR decisions and judgments in the Republic of North Macedonia, with proposals for improvement of existing databases and other tools.   Activity 3.9. - Trainings for drafting decisions in the procedures for protection of freedoms and rights   * Activity is planned to start in Q2 of 2024.   Activity 3.10. - Workshops with bodies and representatives of other professions for the procedure before the Constitutional Court for protection of human freedoms and rights   * Activity is planned to start in Q1 of 2025.   Activity 3.11. - Training of other professions on filing applications to the CC   * Activity is planned to start in Q2 of 2025.   Activity 3.12. - Training of the ECHR Case Law before the Constitutional Court   * Activity is planned to start in Q3 of 2025. | | Output 3  Technical documentation for the new premises of the Academy for Judges and Public Prosecutors | The framework contract ‘Preparation of technical documentation of the premises of the Academy for Judges and Public Prosecutors (phase I) | / | | Output 4  Raised public intolerance to corruption |  | / | |
| **Significant problems encountered and the measures taken/planned to overcome them** |  |
| **Developments and/or identified risks that influence future implementation and the achievement of the objectives** |  |
| **Recommendations for corrective further actions** |  |

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| **IPA III Annual Action Plan in favour of the Republic of North Macedonia for 2021** | |
| **Action Document “EU against organised crime, in support of trade”** | |
| **State of play/ Progress for particular action (e.g. ToR in preparation, tender launched, contracted, under implementation, completed)** | |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | | **Outputs** | **Contract title** | **Status** | | Output 1.1 Digitalisation and extended use of investigation and control records and data | Establishment of Law Enforcement Record Management System | The ToR has been finalized. It is anticipated that implementation will commence at the beginning of 2024. | | Output 1.2 Strengthened institutional and technological capacities to investigate organised and cross-border crime and corruption | Strengthening the institutional capacities in dealing with cultural heritage and environmental crimes | The contract for the twining project ”Strengthening the institutional capacities in dealing with cultural heritage and environmental crimes” was signed in 2023. The Italian Ministry of Interior (Arma dei Carabinieri) was selected as a twinning partner. It is expected to start with implementation in January2024. | |
| **Main achievements and their assessment** | |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | | **Outputs** | **Contract title** | **Main achievements and assessment** | | Output 1.1 Digitalisation and extended use of investigation and control records and data | Establishment of Law Enforcement Record Management System | N/A | | Output 1.2 Strengthened institutional and technological capacities to investigate organised and cross-border crime and corruption | Strengthening the institutional capacities in dealing with cultural heritage and environmental crimes | N/A | |
| **Significant problems encountered and the measures taken/planned to overcome them** | |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | | **Outputs** | **Contract title** | **Problem encountered and measures taken/planned** | | Output 1.1 Digitalisation and extended use of investigation and control records and data | Establishment of Law Enforcement Record Management System | N/A | | Output 1.2 Strengthened institutional and technological capacities to investigate organised and cross-border crime and corruption | Strengthening the institutional capacities in dealing with cultural heritage and environmental crimes | N/A | |
| **Developments and/or identified risks that influence future implementation and the achievement of the objectives** | N/A |
| **Recommendations for corrective further actions** | N/A |